

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TOKYO 12117 100959Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 059

S E C R E T TOKYO 12117

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: MARR, ESTC, US, UR

SUBJECT: FORESTALLING ACQUISITION OF SOVIET DEEP SEA SEARCH
CAPABILITY

REF: STATE 188039

1. IT APPEARS THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL LAGS IN COMMUNICATION
ABOUT PRESENT SITUATION. NEC TOLD US AFTERNOON
AUGUST 10 THEY UNDERSTAND THAT HYDRO PRODUCTS ENGINEERS
ARE STANDING READY TO PROCEED TO JAPAN TO INSTALL
EQUIPMENT THAT WILL LIMIT USE OF SYSTEM TO 3000 METER
DEPTHES RATHER THAN 6000 METERS SPECIFIED.

2. IF ABOVE INFORMATION CORRECT AND HYRDO'S PEOPLE
CAN COME SOONEST, NEC IS PREPARED TO HAVE MODIFICATION
MADE AT ITS FACILITIES AND START INSTALLATION OF
EQUIPMENT IN SOVIETS VESSEL AROUND AUGUST 20. THEY
PLAN NOT TO MENTION THAT DEPTH CHARACTERISTICS HAVE
BEEN ALTERED, LEAVING THAT PROBLEM UNTIL LATER WHEN
AND IF SOVIETS TEST EQUIPMENT IN DEPTHS BELOW 3000
METERS. THEY NOTE THAT INSPECTORS DUE AUGUST 15
WILL OBVIOUSLY NOT BE ABLE CHEKC DEPTH CAPABILITY.
IF SOVIETS SUBSEQUENTLY COMPLAIN, NEC WILL QUITE
PLAUSIBLY DENY KNOWLEDGE THAT CHANGE WAS MADE AND

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REFER SOVIETS TO HYDRO.

3. IT TURNS OUT THAT EQUIPMENT WAS ENTERED INTO
JAPAN INTO BONDED WAREHOUSE FACILITIES TO AVOID
CUSTOMS DUTIES SINCE PRODUCT BEING RE-EXPORTED AND
IS LEGALLY STILL PROPERTY OF OCEAN SYSTEMS JAPAN.
NEC WAS TO TAKE CUSTODY FOR BEGINNING OF INSTALLATION

PROCESS TODAY, AUGUST 10.

4. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES IT APPEARS TO US THAT,
IF USG CONCURS, BEST SOLUTION IS FOR HYDRO ENGINEERS TO PROCEED AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE, PREFERABLY BEFORE THIS WEEKEND AND
COMPLETE MODIFICATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN FACILITIES
PROVIDED BY NEC. WE SEE NO ADVANTAGE TO MOVING
EQUIPMENT TO U.S. NAVY CUSTODY. IN ANY CASE WE WOULD
NOT WANT TRANSFER TO BE CARRIED OUT OPENLY BY U.S.
OFFICIALS.

5. HOPE DEPARTMENT AND NAVY WILL URGE ALL PRIVATE
CITIZENS INVOLVED TO AVOID TELEX COMMUNICATIONS ON
THIS SENSITIVE SUBJECT. NEC SHOWED US TELEX FROM
STRICKLAND OF HYDRO MARKED "CONFIDENTIAL" WHICH SPELLS
OUT MANY DETAILS OF DEPARTMENT INTEREST.

6. DEPARTMENT SHOULD CONSIDER REPEATING THIS AND
OTHER PERTINENT MESSAGES TO COMNAVFOR JAPAN
YOKOSUKA.

7. DEPARTMENT CABLES TO EMBASSY SHOULD BE TRANS-
MITTED WITH AT LEAST IMMEDIATE PRECEDENCE.
MANSFIELD

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NNN

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